

Louis Braille

TOUCH OF GENIUS PRIZE FOR INNOVATION

Win up to \$20,000

Have you developed an innovative and accessible product?

Professional or educational software and apps

Gaming software or apps that promote tactile & braille learning

Braille or tactile-related hardware

Download application and details at touchofgeniusprize.org or contact us at geniusprize@nbp.org
Deadline 1/9/2017

Project must demonstrate some aspect of tactile literacy for blind persons and promote braille literacy or access to information

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TOUCH OF GENIUS PRIZE FOR INNOVATION

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Please read the Submission Requirements Document prior to submitting an application.

- **APPLICATION** - signed and submitted by January 9, 2017
 - **Electronic application emailed to:**
geniusprize@nbp.org
 - **Prototype mailed to:**
Touch of Genius Prize for Innovation
National Braille Press
88 Saint Stephen Street
Boston, MA 02115
- **BRIEF SUMMARY (600 words or less)**
- **OUTCOME REALIZATION DOCUMENT (10 pages or less)**
- **RECOMMENDATIONS – mailed by author to NBP**
 - **Letter 1** _____
 - **Letter 2** _____
- **PROTOTYPE or SUPPORTING MATERIALS (optional)**
 - *Applications that include a prototype will have stronger consideration. We strongly suggest submitting a prototype or video presentation along with your application. If selected as a finalist one will be requested. All materials submitted must be in an accessible format (see Submission Requirements document.) Include usage and return instructions with your prototype if applicable.*

The Adjudication Committee will not review any applications that are not accessible and do not contain all of the above materials. All materials must be received at National Braille Press by January 9, 2017.

Questions? Please contact Ximena Ojopi at geniusprize@nbp.org or 617-266-6160, ext. 412.

Applicant's Name

Project Title

Affiliation (if any)

**Street
Address**

City _____ **State** _____ **Country** _____ **Zip**

Telephone _____ **Email**

How did you hear about the Prize?

Please briefly describe the nature of your project (Please limit to 100 words or less):

Please check one of the following:

I am applying for this award as an individual. One signature required.

I am applying for a group of individuals. One signature required.

I am nominating an individual or group. Two signatures required.

If selected as a finalist:

I am willing to present my project to the Adjudication Committee via video conference on February 6, 2017.

If selected as a winner/honoree:

I am willing to present my material at an event sponsored by National Braille Press in March 2017.

I give National Braille Press permission to reproduce my application for promotional purposes and/or use on their website.

I am willing to serve on next year's Adjudication Committee, if asked.

I will provide my social security number in order for National Braille Press to issue a Form 1099.

I agree to consider a partnership with National Braille Press in promotion of my product/project.

Winners should be aware of the potential ramifications of disclosing new ideas to the general public. National Braille Press assures the confidentiality of submissions reviewed by the Adjudication Committee.

Signature of applicant _____ Date

Signature of nominee _____ Date

(if applicable)

RECOMMENDATION INFORMATION

Recommendations should come in the form of a signed letter to the Adjudication Committee. Letters must be in English and should include the following information:

- Applicant's Name and Project Title
- Recommender's Name
- Recommender's Title/Affiliation
- Street Address, City, Country, Zip
- Telephone
- Email

The letter should include specifics about the related accomplishments of the applicant/nominee and comments on the impact that his/her project or innovation may have on tactile literacy for blind people. This letter should NOT solely be an endorsement of the applicant as a person; it MUST reference the specific project.

Letters should be sent as a locked PDF BY THE AUTHOR to geniusprize@nbp.org.

***All materials must be received at National Braille Press by
January 9, 2017.***

***Questions? Please contact Ximena Ojopi at
geniusprize@nbp.org or 617-266-6160, ext. 412.***

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Louis Braille

TOUCH OF GENIUS PRIZE FOR INNOVATION

Presented by



AWARD – Up to \$20,000 PRIZE

The 2016 **Louis Braille Touch of Genius Prize for Innovation** will be awarded to an individual, group of individuals, or company who has developed innovative, accessible computer software, Android applications, iOS applications, or tactile hardware that promote braille and/or tactile literacy for blind people.

Louis Braille was an innovator—and this award seeks to identify and inspire future innovation. Potentially, the award process will inspire new strategic directions for National Braille Press (NBP).

The Prize can be granted for:

- Professional software and apps
- Educational software and apps
- Gaming software or apps that promote tactile and braille learning
- Braille or tactile-related hardware

In any of these areas, the innovative project must demonstrate some aspect of tactile literacy for blind people and promote braille literacy or access to information. Tactile literacy refers to any product, method, or service that has the effect of increasing access to information through the sense of touch. Braille itself is an example of tactile literacy and will be given special consideration, but eligible innovations are not limited to braille.

The Touch of Genius Prize is provided through support from The Gibney Family Foundation and National Braille Press.

ELIGIBILITY

Individuals, groups of individuals, or companies are encouraged to apply.

The **Touch of Genius Prize for Innovation** may be awarded for a completed project or a concept in the functional prototype stage that shows viability and will improve opportunities for blind people worldwide. Applications in the functional prototype stage will be given stronger consideration. Submissions can be stand-alone products or part of a larger curriculum, program, or hardware package. In the opinion of the judges, the proposed innovation should demonstrate feasibility and have the potential for achieving the following criteria.

CRITERIA

A priority for awarding the **Touch of Genius Prize for Innovation** is to foster and reward innovation in the field of tactile and braille literacy for blind people.

For accessible computer, software, tactile hardware, and applications to be competitive for the Prize, they must be clearly innovative, based on a tactile interface, and increase literacy or access to information. Projects must promote the use of braille, braille literacy, tactile literacy, or tactile learning.

Other criteria to be considered:

- Discoveries that demonstrate a remarkable improvement over prior products or methods
- Applications that improve educational opportunities for people who are blind
- Innovations that foster *independent and user-friendly* access to information
- Creative outcomes that can be applied globally

SELECTION PROCESS

Applications and nominations will be reviewed by The **Touch of Genius Prize for Innovation** Adjudication Committee, comprising experts from various, and relevant fields. All decisions relating to the selection of Prize Winners are final, and will be at the sole discretion of the Adjudication Committee.

The Adjudication Committee reserves the right to split the \$20,000 prize in order to offer multiple Prizes in any given year, including but not limited to Honorable Mentions.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

The Application document is available on NBP's website. Applications will be accepted from individuals, groups of individuals, companies, or someone advocating on behalf of either. Completed applications must include the following:

1. Signed application form. If the application is being submitted by a third party, the form must be signed by both the applicant and the individual or leading representative of the group of individuals who are being nominated.
2. A document **no more than 10 pages**, summarizing the project and showing outcome realization for both potential concepts and fully realized projects:
 - a) Describe the project or innovation.
 - b) Outline how it exhibits innovation. Innovation is defined, in general terms, as a remarkable improvement or discovery that has a direct impact on tactile literacy for blind people and meets the Prize criteria.
 - c) Explain the potential for an emerging project, including target markets, production costs, if applicable, and prospects to bring the proposed innovation to market.
 - d) Include measurements of success to date and potential impact on the field.
 - e) Express challenges and limitations experienced with production or distribution of proposed innovation.
 - f) Include any other materials that could be helpful to the judges. All materials submitted must be in an accessible format (see Submission Requirements below.)
3. Functional prototype. Please include simple instructions for testing the prototype. We strongly suggest submitting a functional prototype or accessible video presentation along with your application.

4. Two letters of recommendation from colleagues, professors, or any other professional in a position to comment on the innovation. Letters of recommendation should be emailed to GeniusPrize@nbp.org as a locked PDF **by the author(s)**. Please reference the application for further recommendation requirements.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

1. Applications must be submitted electronically.
2. Completed applications must be received by January 9, 2017.
PLEASE NOTE: Incomplete applications will not be reviewed by the Adjudication Committee.
3. Application documents must be clearly labeled either by internal heading or document name (e.g., Form, Summary, Outcomes/realizations, supplementary information)
4. Electronic documents must be in an accessible format (ex. Word) – any PDFs ***must*** be accompanied by another accessible version of the document.
5. Images and videos included with your application must be described either with captions or audio description, as some members of the Adjudication Committee are blind or visually impaired. Please see this video as an example https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O7j4_aP8dWA.
6. While we encourage international applications, we request that all submissions be in English to ensure accurate translation and comprehension.

*National Braille Press welcomes the potential opportunity to partner with the **Touch of Genius Prize for Innovation** winner to further promote access to information through tactile literacy.*

Send your application and all supporting materials to:

1. Applications and Letters to: GeniusPrize@nbp.org
2. Prototypes:
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National Braille Press
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